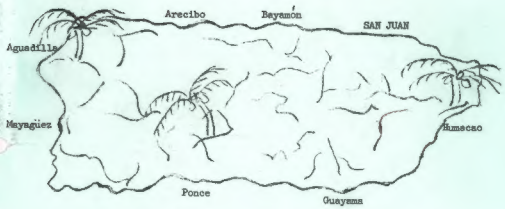


Property of Aspira, Inc. (Donating)
20-24 BRANFORD PLACE
NEWARK, N. J. 07102

1970

MANUAL ON THE
HISTORY
OF
PUERTO RICO

ATLANTIC OCEAN



CARIBBEAN SEA

Property of Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey
20-24 BRANFORD PLACE
NEWARK, N. J. 07102

ASPIRA MANHATTAN CENTER
Property of Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey
20-24 BRANFORD PLACE
New York, N. Y. 10023
Maria C. Santiago, Director
NEWARK, N. J. 07102

D E D I C A T I O N

TO THE PUERTO RICAN YOUTH OF NEW YORK CITY

We dedicate "A Survey of the History of Puerto Rico" to you, the Puerto Rican youth of New York City, because it was the cry of your need that provoked the preparation of such a project by ASFIRA. You requested to know more about your origins and the events that led to making you what you are today. Furthermore, we responded to your request because we know the seriousness and the consequences that effects of such knowledge will have upon you. The development of a healthy self-image is essential to gather the necessary strength for the struggle to become integrated New Yorkers. A positive self-image cannot be possible without strong roots emerging from the knowledge of our past. Your roots stem directly from the Taino Indian from the island, Borinquen, the Spaniard who discovered and colonized the island, and the Negro from the unknown regions of Africa.

In a very short period of time, you, the Puerto Rican youth of New York City will take over the reigns of leadership from those who hold them now. The knowledge of these who were the leaders in the past - their courage and success - the knowledge of the events, struggles and hardships of our people will serve as symbols, as examples - to give strength and courage for your own encounters with life.

The records of our history and culture have naturally been written in Spanish. You have lost part of the legacy which your parents had to give you, knowledge of the Spanish language. This loss closed the doors on you to the records of our history. Writing this survey in English is not only an attempt to bring you the facts about our history, but also an effort to make you desire to re-open the doors to the recorded words in the original language to history - to art - to literature - to all wealth of our culture.

Property of Aspira, Inc. #1 25 5111
20-24 STAMFORD PLACE
BRIDGEVIEW, N.J. 07102

The most important reason why this survey has been written and produced is because we value you - we cherish you - we place our faith and hope in you - we expect great things from you.

ASPIRA, INC.
Louis Mfiez
Executive Director
296 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10001

ASPIRA Manhattan Center
Maria C. Santiago, Director
1974 Broadway
New York, N. Y. 10023

ASPIRA Brooklyn Center
Luis Cuevas, Director
161 Remsen Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201

ASPIRA Bronx Center
Julian Rivera, Director
420 East 149th Street
Bronx, N.Y. 10455

PROPERTY OF THE
20-24 BUREAU OF PLANNING
NEWARK, N. J. 07102

INTERODUCTION

In general this brief survey is meant to acquaint the Puerto Rican with the early history of our Island. It covers the period from the Spanish Discovery of the island to the North-American Invasion in 1898. Specifically the prime purpose of the survey is to whet the appetite of the reader, inducing him or her to further reading elsewhere.

The survey is, by no means, an exhaustive research into the history of the island. It does not cover the 20th century because the complexity of that period does not lend itself easily to a simplified outline and because there are many books available in English that cover that period of our history.

It is hoped that the survey will raise more questions that it will answer. For only then will the reader seek to read into the history of our island.

Property of Aquila Inc. of New Jersey
20-24 BRANFORD PLACE
NEWARK, N. J. 07102

Puerto Rico is rectangular in shape, and approximately 100 miles long and thirty-five miles wide. The principal topographical regions of Puerto Rico are the coastal plains, which encircle the island, the hills, that cover thirty-five percent of its surface, and the mountains which extend over forty-five percent of the island. The rivers of Puerto Rico are not suitable for navigation as they are short, narrow and shallow. Although the island is located in the torrid zone it enjoys a mean annual temperature of 76 degrees fahrenheit. Puerto Rico is an island lush with vegetation, grandiose in its physical beauty and rich in its cultural heritage.

Copy to Dept. of Justice, Inc. of the
20-24 BRANFORD PLACE
NEWARK, N. J. 07102

THE DISCOVERY BY CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Christopher Columbus had discovered a new continent although he believed that he had arrived in Asia. His four great voyages between 1492 - 1502 are considered by many historians to be the greatest discovery of modern times.

Columbus was born in the maritime city of Genova, Italy in the middle of the 15th century. From his early childhood, young Christopher had been fascinated with the tales related by the sailors about their adventures at sea. Although his father was a humble worker he was able to gather the money to send his son to school where he studied literature, geometry, arithmetic, astronomy, geographical navigation and map reading. At 14 years of age Christopher Columbus made his first sea voyage, starting his career as an explorer and navigator.

Columbus ardently believed, despite the adverse opinions of his friends and colleagues, that there was a more direct route to the Orient than by going around the coast of Africa. He believed that the shape of the earth was around and not flat as was the considered belief of the day. His plan was to sail across the Atlantic Ocean and arrive at the Orient.

Columbus sought the financial assistance of the rulers of Spain, Portugal, France and England, but to no avail, as the countries were engaged in wars and monies could not be allocated for the purpose of exploration.

Columbus had spent all of his own money trying to convince the reigning sovereigns to furnish the ships, men, and money for his voyage. One day as he and his 12 year old son were traveling on foot to petition the king of France for assistance he stopped at a convent and monastery to beg for bread and water. The prior, Juan Perez spoke to Columbus and was greatly impressed with his plan to find a new route to the Orient. The prior had influential friends who were able to persuade the Spanish rulers that Spain would

win riches and glory if she could be the first nation to arrive at a new route to the Indies, Spain was now winning the war with the Moors and financial conditions were more favorable for Columbus.

The Spanish crown furnished him with three small ships; the Pinta, the Niña, and the Santa María. Ninety men accompanied Columbus on his first voyage.

THE FIRST VOYAGE OF COLUMBUS

On August 3, 1492, the daring adventures received the blessings of the priests and set sail from Palos, Spain. The trip began successfully, but due to a broken rudder on one of the ships the group was obliged to remain on the Canary Islands until repairs were made.

In spite of the calm seas and blue skies the men became tense and nervous. They pleaded to return home as they believed that they were sailing on an endless sea. On October 12, 1492, a lookout on the Pinta spotted land. Columbus hadn't arrived at the Orient but he had discovered a new world. Accompanied by his captains and some sailors, and carrying the Spanish flag, Columbus came ashore, kissing the land, and offering his thanks to God. The Island, called Guanahani by the natives, was given the name of San Salvador by Columbus.

The inhabitants of the island were of a deep bronze complexion and had never before seen white man. In order to allay their initial fears of the white men Columbus presented the natives with colorful beads and other trinkets. The natives returned Columbus' favors by offering him fruit, animals, and gold adornments.

Columbus continued on his voyage stopping at an island which is now known as Cuba. Columbus named the new Island Fernandina in honor of the King of Spain.

He continued seeking the rich cities of the Orient as they were described by the explorer Marco Polo. He took anchor at the island now known as Santo Domingo and with 40 men constructed a fort and established a city which he called El Fortín de Navidad.

Columbus returned to Spain on January 4, 1493 and was greeted with great warmth and enthusiasm by the people as it was believed that he had landed in the Orient. Columbus presented the King with colorful birds, plants and trinkets of gold to demonstrate the richness of the land that he had discovered.

THE SECOND VOYAGE OF COLUMBUS

On September 25, 1493, Columbus left Cadiz, Spain, on his second voyage to the new world. Seventeen ships and 1500 men of noble blood accompanied Columbus on this voyage. This expedition carried the first horses and cattle to the new world. The first stop was at an island which Columbus named Dominica as its discovery was on a Sunday. Columbus arrived in Guadalupe on the 14th of November, an island which was inhabited by the fierce Caribe Indians. Upon Columbus' arrival the Caribes fled their village. While exploring the Indian village Columbus found women and children being held prisoners in the Indian huts. The captives, in sign language, explained that they were expecting to be eaten by the man-eating Caribes and pleaded with Columbus to return them to

their own island which they called Borinquén. The Indian women helped Columbus locate their island which he later named San Juan Bautista. The official date of the discovery of San Juan, which is today Puerto Rico, is recorded as November 19, 1493. After furnishing his ships with provisions of fish and water, Columbus returned to El Fortín de Navidad only to find that the city had been destroyed by Indians.

After three years of exploring the surrounding islands and finding none of the richness that he had anticipated, Columbus returned to Haiti in poor health and named his brother, Bartolomé, governor of the new territory. Many of Columbus' followers were disgusted with their exploits and complained to the Spanish crown. Columbus returned to Spain for the purpose of defending his reputation.

THIRD TRIP OF COLUMBUS

After spending two years in Spain, Columbus made a third voyage to the new world. He arrived in Haiti and was confronted with many difficulties. He was arrested by his enemies who were jealous of his exploits and returned to Spain where he was immediately liberated by the crown.

THE DEATH OF THE GREAT DISCOVERER

With the death of the Spanish queen Columbus had lost his powerful support. The great explorer died in Spain without ever having known that he had discovered a new world. His remains were interred in Spain and then brought to Santo Domingo where they now lie in the great cathedral of the city. Two statues now exist in Puerto Rico in memory of Christopher Columbus; in the plaza de Colón in San Juan and in the Plaza Principal in Mayaguez.

THE INDIAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE

The Indians that Columbus encountered in Guadalupe said they came from an island called Borinquen which means "land of the valiant man." They were of a bronze complexion, of average height, with thick black straight hair. The Tainos had slanted black eyes and a short straight nose. Except for married women who indicated their marital status by wearing a white loin cloth, the Tainos did not wear clothing. The men painted intricate designs on their bodies in vivid colors. In preparation for war they adorned themselves with feather head-bands and collars made of stone and the teeth of animals.

The Tainos were a gregarious people and lived in tribes. The tribal members were divided into three social classes; the Nytaisnos, who were the nobles and subchiefs, the Buhitis, who were the priests and medicine men, and the Naborias who constituted the common working people. The chieftain or cacique of each village was selected from the Nytaisnos. He was responsible for the general defense of the tribe with the duty of maintaining good relations with the caciques of other tribes.

The Nytaisnos had specific responsibilities. They supervised the farming, the hunting, the fishing and the training of the young men in the art of warfare. The Naborias obeyed the orders and rules set down by the governing Nytaisnos.

The Buhitis conducted the religious ceremonies and taught the history of the tribe to the young men. They did this in a ceremony called the areyto, where amidst singing and dancing, they would teach them the tribal history which they would repeat in chorus. The religious instruction was accompanied by music from the maraca, the tambour, and the güiro. Marriage, although not a religious ceremony was celebrated in an areyto. A wife could be purchased by a dowry. The religion of the Tainos was of a primitive nature.

The Indians believed in two spirits, Yukiyu, the good spirits who lived in the mountains of Luquillo and Juracan (Hurricane), the bad spirit, a natural phoemen that had a lasting impression on the Indians. The Tainos prayed to idols called Cemfes which were grotesque human and animal faces constructed out of clay and stone. The Bahiti, was familiar with herbs that could cure the sick. The Tainos believed that illness was caused by supernatural powers. They tried to placate the offended God and invoked spirits to help them. The Tainos had a vague idea of life after death. They buried their dead with food for their transition to the other world.

THE VILLAGE

The Tainos usually constructed their villages in valleys or near the sea, a river or a lagoon. The house of the cacique, called the caney, was located in the midst of the village in an area known as the batey. The areytos were conducted in the batey. The caney was rectangular in shape and had a small door that entered on to the batey. It was the only construction in the village that had a window. The bohios, the homes of the Nytainos and the Naborias were circular in shape and made of grass and palm leaves. The bohios were small structures consisting of only one room which was used as a combination kitchen, living room and sleeping quarters. Food would be cooked on three large stones situated in the bohio. The fire would be kept burning night and day. This could be understood considering the difficulty involved in starting a fire by rubbing a stick of wood between two blocks. The floor of the bohio was the bare ground. The furniture was scarce consisting only of cotton hammocks hung from the rafters and a few low seats where the Indians would squat. The kitchen utensils consisted of bowls made of clay, tools chipped out of stone and fruit shells.

The Tainos had simple tastes in food. Their main fare was cassabe, a bread made from the yuca plant, sweet potatoes, and crudely toasted corn. Although fruits were not cultivated the Indians enjoyed the natural fruits which grew on the island. Meat was rarely eaten by the Indians although they did partake of fish and birds. Water was the customary drink of the Tainos, although they were known to produce an intoxicating beverage derived from corn and fermented bread. Two meals were eaten during the day after which the Tainos would sit around and smoke tobacco.

OCCUPATIONS

Agriculture was the principal occupation of the Tainos. The products cultivated were yuca, corn, sweet potatoes, tobacco, tropical fruits and herbs for medicinal purposes. Many products that people consider indigenous to the island were actually brought by the Spaniards: mango, cocoa, coffee, plantains, oranges, lemons, lime, sugar cane, and pineapples.

Besides farming, the Tainos were expert in fishing and hunting. They used fish nets called nasa for trapping their prey and bows and arrows for hunting. The Indians fished from boats which they patiently and skillfully hollowed with fire from the trunks of trees.

The Tainos were adept in the production of ceramics and textiles. They distinguished themselves in creating the Cemíes or small idols, and masks which represented the faces of ancestors which they believed were protecting their homes. Their pottery was decorated with pictures of the heads of animals and painted in intricate designs. Cotton and maguey were the principal materials used for weaving. The Indians wove loin cloths, hammocks and fishing nets. Fruit juices served as the coloring agents for the fabrics.

ENTERTAINMENT

Playing games and dancing were very popular pastimes of the Tainos. As musicians they invented the maracas, the guiro and the tambour. They had a great deal of skill in a ball game called bati; which resembled our game of volley ball. The game would be played in walled-in fields called corrales.

LANGUAGE

The Taino language left its mark on modern day Puerto Rico. Many of the cities, towns, rivers, and lakes still have Taino names; Humacao, Caguas, Lake Toa, Luquillo. Many of the fruits, plants and objects have maintained their original Indian names; aguacate (avocado), hamaca (Hammock).

The Tainos lived a peaceful life except when their enemies, the Caribe Indians from Guadalupe, would attack them. The caribes were fierce warriors who would invade the Taino villages and capture the women and children to be later eaten by them in religious ceremonies.

THE COLONIZATIONJUAN PONCE DE LEON

Ponce de León, a valiant soldier who had recently returned from the war with the Moors accompanied Columbus on his second voyage. He, along with many other young warriors sought to make his fortune in the new world. Ten years of his life were spent in Santo Domingo where he distinguished himself as the commander of the forces that quelled an indian uprising. As a reward for his exploits, the Spanish king named him governor of a villa on an island called Salvaleón de Higüey. Ponce de León was fascinated with the numerous stories that he had heard about gold being found on another island

and set sail in 1508 for Puerto Rico. Juan González, a young Spaniard who was familiar with the Indian language, accompanied the explorer as his interpreter.

Ponce and his men disembarked on August 12, 1508 at the bay of Guánica near the village of the principal cacique of all Borinquen, Agueybana. The explorer and the Indian chieftain became close friends, and as was the custom of the Indians in those days, the two men exchanged names to indicate their good relationship.

Ponce de León continued his voyage arriving at the Bay of San Juan where he organized a colony before moving further inland. He later founded the first Christian settlement in Puerto Rico which he baptized Caparra. Ponce de León went to Santo Domingo to get his family and to gather more settlers before he returned to Puerto Rico. The King of Spain proclaimed Ponce de León the first governor of Puerto Rico.

SLAVERY AND REBELLION

A system of "repartimientos" was devised whereby the Indians were made the property of the Spanish and were compelled to work for them in mines and on the farms for a small recompense. The cacique Agueybana had died and a new chieftain, Guaybana, had taken his place. None of the good feelings of friendship between Agueybana and Ponce de León ever developed with Guaybana. Guaybana spent his life fighting the Spaniards in an endeavor to free his people from the cruel treatment administered by the white men.

When the Spaniards arrived on the island the Indians believed that the white men were supernatural beings and could not die. One day they captured a Spanish soldier and submerged him in the river until he drowned. They then sat on the hillside and watched his body for three days. When the dead Spaniard did not show any signs of life and later showed signs of putrefaction the Indians were satisfied that the white men were not gods and prepared to

wage war with the invaders. The indians then attacked and destroyed the Spanish town named Sotomayor, killing the settlers and destroying their fields.

The first attempt at rebellion was stopped by Ponce de León who attacked the indians while they were sleeping and thus ended their rebellion; 200 Tainos were dead and not a single Spanish soldier had fallen.

CACIQUE GUABANA'S DEATH

Ponce de León traveled north where the indians were uniting for a desperate attack on Caparra. Receiving word that thousands of Tainos were about to attack, Ponce de León and his men fortified themselves in a stockade atop a hill where they could easily shoot at the oncoming indians. Regardless of the vast number of indians that the Spanish shot down the Tainos kept advancing. The tide of success for the Spanish seemed to be turning until one lucky shot saved the day. A young Spanish soldier was attracted by an indian who appeared to be leading the attack. The soldier set his sights on the golden plaque worn by the indian chieftain, and soon the warrior was slain. The Spaniard had unknowingly shot and killed the cacique, Guaybana, and the gold shield that had attracted his attention was the symbol of authority of the chief cacique called "guanín". The death of their leader caused the Tainos to withdraw, carrying their dead leader away with them. Although the Spaniards wanted to pursue the fleeing indians, Ponce ordered his men to return to Caparra. The rebellion of the Tainos was squelched and the indians either returned to their serfdom, fled from the island, or hid in the mountains.

CERON, THE TYRANT

A problem of politics and appointments regarding the officials in the new world now came to the fore. The council of Castille claimed that it was not the function of the king to name officials in the new world. They claimed that was the responsibility of the Governor of all the indies to make political appointments. Diego Colón, the son of Christopher Columbus, held the title of governor of the Indies. From his residence in Santo Domingo he ordered Juan Ceron, who had then become governor of Puerto Rico to find a new settlement. Juan Ceron, founded the town of San German by 1512. After this, Ceron engaged in acts of persecution and subjugation of the indians in Puerto Rico. The Spaniards destroyed the indian canoes so that they could not escape to the neighboring islands. Poses were formed to hunt for the indians who were hiding in the mountains. The indians were sold for the benefit of the royal treasury in Spain. They were put to work in the mines and on the farms with no recompense for their labors. Due to the numerous complaints concerning Ceron's management of the island, Diego Colón was compelled to name a new governor to replace Ceron in 1513.

A LAST REVOLT OF THE INDIANS

The indians, under the leadership of the cacique, Cacimar, gathered force to assault Spanish settlements. When Cacimar was slain in battle his brother Yaureibo made preparations on the island of Vieques to avenge his brother's death. The governor, incensed at the behavior of the indians, pursued them from San German to Vieques for the purpose of punishing them. Taking their canoes and surprising them at night, the Spaniards won a decisive victory. The cacique Yaureibo was slain along with many of his followers. The governor continued to hunt for the rebellious indians as

far as Guadalupe and Dominica, islands to the South. The Indians from the area called Luquillo continued to rebel until the cacique in charge was slain. The cacique of Humacao readily submitted to Spanish, facilitating the exploitation of gold in the island.

In 1512 Ponce de León returned from his expedition to Florida. The Spanish king listened with pleasure to the tales of the explorer and conferred upon Ponce de León the title of Adelantado of Dimini and Florida along with the additional title of Captain of the army against the Caribes with civil and criminal jurisdiction over sea and land. In 1514, the king gave Ponce de León the title of ruling counselor of San Juan for the remainder of his life. Ponce was responsible for making two major changes in the settlement. He rectified the system of repar-timientos of the Indians and divided the area in two parts; the North was called San Juan, and the South, San German.

DE LAS CASAS, THE EMANCIPATOR

The freeing of the Indians created discord between Ponce de León and Sancho Velazquez, the commissioner in Santo Domingo. Two rival groups were formed; one headed by Ponce de León and the other by Velazquez. The dispute was settled in favor of Ponce de León as his daughter was married to Antonio de la Gama, the judge named to investigate the administration of Velazquez.

The colonists of the new world suffered a great loss when Carlos succeeded the Spanish throne upon the death of his uncle, King Ferdinand in 1516. Carlos was 16 years of age when he was crowned king and a Franciscan monk, Jimenez de Cisneros, was named regent for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the young monarch. Ferdinand had favored agriculture as the main occupation of the colonies, but the new regime was interested primarily in the exploitation of gold from the new world. The Indians were harshly treated in their work in the mines. The cruel treatment of the Indians caused them to wage constant uprising. The Dominican monk, Antonio de Montesinos, deplored the sad plight of the Indians and in 1511 delivered a sermon against the officials of Santo Domingo denouncing their scandalous treatment of the Indians. The priest, Bartolomé de las Casas, heard the monk speak against the harsh demands made upon the Indians and dedicated himself to the cause of the unfortunate victims of the Spanish officials. He made trips to Santo Domingo, Cuba, Central America, and Mexico appealing to the people to help in his cause. He wrote a book on the history of the Indians and a great work in their defense. Las Casas raised his voice in protest against the system of "repartimientos" before the Cardinal Cisneros. Liberty was finally restored to the Indians.

NEGRO SLAVERY

The new plan was to substitute Negro slaves to do the work in the mines. African slaves were to be found in Spain before the discovery of the new world. Slave traffic began when Portugal took expeditions to the coasts of Africa. Although Cardinal Cisneros prohibited the importation of Negro slaves into the colonies, the young king had them introduced into the colonies in 1518.

DEATH OF PONCE DE LEON

Alonso Manso was named the first bishop of Puerto Rico in 1513. He was not satisfied with the humble cathedral constructed in Caparra and preferred to reside in Spain from where he governed the new colonies, returning only when he obtained the title of Inquisitor General of the Indies. The church was active in removing Sancho Velázquez from his post by accusing him of crimes against the Catholic church for his vicious treatment of the Indians, Velázquez was later sentenced to prison where he died in the year 1520.

Since his return to Puerto Rico Ponce de Leon was displeased with conditions on the island. Velázquez had been active in stirring up bad sentiment against Ponce. Ponce de León decided to leave the island and make a new expedition. News of the exploits of Hernan Cortes in México had come to his attention. Ponce had thought at first that Florida was a separate island but he now believed that it was part of the rich country of México. In 1521 with two small boats he set sail for Florida. In Florida while the colonists were constructing an encampment, the warlike Indians of the territory attacked and killed many of them. Ponce de León was wounded and returned to Puerto Principe in Haiti where he died from his wounds a few months later.

THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

In the 16th century the island encountered many obstacles which impeded its progress. The production of gold on the island had substantially decreased and along with it the number of settlers diminished. When news of the riches to be found in Peru reached Puerto Rico, the settlers had but one goal in mind; to depart for Peru and share in the wealth to be found there. In his attempts to keep the settlers from leaving the governor ordered that anyone found trying to leave the island would be punished by having the soles of his feet slashed.

Another calamity which delayed the progress of Puerto Rico was a smallpox epidemic. The illness caused great misery and death particularly among the

Indians, reducing their number by one third. The numerous cyclones also had a strong effect in retarding the development of the island, causing much suffering among new poor towns. The caribes in the surrounding territory continued to attack the coast of Puerto Rico. In 1520 a group of Caribes landed in Humacao killing many Spaniards and capturing the Indians. In 1530, 500 Caribe Indians attacked the island. The settlers fearing these ferocious Indians took refuge in the monasteries and churches. A Franciscan order established a farm and the Caribes burned the building and killed five priests.

THE ATTACK ON THE ISLAND BY OTHER POWERS

Another factor that impeded the progress and development of the island was the attacks of the European countries. During the 16th century, Puerto Rico was besieged by attacks from French, English, and the Dutch.

Spain and France were at war and the Spanish colonies in the new world suffered the consequences of the conflict. In 1528 the town of San Germán was completely destroyed by the French. The attack by the French greatly alarmed the settlers. The authorities in San Juan repeatedly requested more defenses for the island.

THE FORTS AND THE WALL

La Fortaleza was completed in 1540. Fifteen years later 8 cannons were installed at the fort. Plans for the fort, El Morro, were completed in 1594. The defenses of Puerto Rico were not sufficient to withstand the many foreign attacks. In 1625 Enrique Ontomayor started to construct a wall to enclose San Juan. The wall started at El Morro and was to continue to Fort San Cristobal. The structure had three doors facing the bay. The door of San Juan; the door of San Justo and the door of Spain. The land door was situated where the building occupied by the Puerto Rican Institute of Culture and the Jose Julian Acosta School are now located. The door had the official title of the door of Santiago but was better known as la Puerta de la Tierra (DOOR OF THE LAND) to distinguish it from those that opened to the sea. In ensuing battles all the

doors but the door of San Juan which still stands today were destroyed.

Beside the French attacks on Puerto Rico, England also attempted an invasion for the purpose of stealing the money sent to Puerto Rico from Mexico. The English were responsible for a series of attacks on the island. In 1595, Sir Francis Drake, a British naval officer, attacked the harbor of San Juan. His purpose was to capture a Spanish ship hiding in the harbor, and reportedly carrying a cargo of gold. Drake made several attempts to take over the city but was forced to withdraw.

The second attack of the English was made three years later when George Clifford, Count of Cumberland, commanding a huge fleet, disembarked in an area now known as Santurce and tried to take the Bridge of San Antonio but without success. Later he was successful in capturing the city of San Juan and forcing the Spaniards to surrender. The English remained in San Juan for a few months but were forced to abandon the island when an epidemic of dysentery broke out killing more than 400 Englishmen.

The Spanish recovered the city and rebuilt the fortifications. In 1625, seventeen Dutch ships with 2,500 troops attacked the city of San Juan forcing the Spaniards, under command of the Governor of Puerto Rico, de Haro, to withdraw into the castle of El Morro. The Dutch easily occupied the city and surrounded el Morro hoping to force de Haro to surrender. Not heeding the surrender order, the Spaniards took the offensive and made two successful attacks on the enemies lines. The hero of the two attacks was Captain Juan de Amézquita, one of the first Puerto Rican born military leaders. When the Spanish continued to refuse to surrender the Dutch set fire to the city destroying many homes including the important library of Bishop Rodrigo de Balbuena. Captain Botello, a Puerto Rican military man, was successful in defeating the Dutch by his strategic attack from the rear of Santurce. The Dutch were forced to retreat to their ships.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

The 17th century saw the beginning of the decline of Spanish power which led to the economic mismanagement of the colony.

Life in Puerto Rico in this century was characterized by poor facilities and inadequate and scarce consumer supplies such as food and clothing. Commerce was heavily limited and the materials brought into the island were smuggled in by the Dutch and English. Little money was available which greatly limited purchasing power. The principal foods consumed by the inhabitants of the island were bananas, rice, bread made from the yuca plant, corn, sweet potatoes, turtle meat and some beef. The population of the island increased very little in the 150 years since its founding.

PIRATES

Puerto Rico suffered greatly from the attacks made by the pirates and corsairs in the 17th century. The coast of the island was constantly the target for the pirates raids and pillaging.

Contrary to the pirates who attacked any banner for their own greed the corsairs were under the patronage of a sovereign head. The buccaneers were the most infamous of the pirates. They lived on an island North of Santo Domingo called Tortuga. These men lived like savages and spent their time boarding and assaulting ships and towns. They attacked with great ferocity, screaming and shrieking as they charged. The loot obtained in these raids was divided among themselves. The people captured were either released, kept as servants, or sold as slaves. If a pirate was mutilated in an attack he was recompensed for his wounds by an assigned amount of money or proportion of slaves.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY - Effects of the French and Spanish Alliance

The island of Puerto Rico was made the object of a number of sea attacks in the 18th century. The reason for the renewed aggression against the island was that Spain and France established an alliance based on the fact that the new king of Spain was the grandson of the French King. About the same time Austria and England joined forces to be the contender in a 3 year war against Spain and France, as Austria claimed the crown of Spain for the son of the Austrian emperor. This situation caused the English and the Dutch to attack the Spanish colonies.

PUERTO RICAN HEROES

Puerto Rico defended itself valiantly in these attempted invasions. A man who is remembered to this day for the bravery he displayed in the English attack on Arecibo was Antonio de los Reyes Correa, who valiantly defended the village against the English with a handful of citizens and a few regular soldiers. On the assault upon Loíza, Juan Caballero and 50 members of the militia effectively counter attacked under the famous cry of "Santiago", and were able to keep the invaders out.

The Dutch made another attempt to invade Puerto Rico. On this occasion their plan was to enter the island through the south, disembarking at the port of Guayanilla. A group of 20 men led by Domingo Pacheco de Matos, a Puerto Rican cavalryman, attacked the Dutch as they left their launches and the Dutch were defeated.

Other attempts of invasion by England in this period of history were successfully repelled. Two major encounters of the English and the Puerto Ricans were at a village called Boca Chica, near Ponce and on the island of Vieques.

The island of Puerto Rico, despite the valiant exploits of the militia and the regular army, was poorly defended. The militia was composed of inadequately trained citizens who received no recompense for their services.

A repair of the island fortifications was ordered by the Spanish king after having read a report of the defenses of Puerto Rico. The fortifications were completed from the Fort of El Morro continuing along the beach to the Bridge of San Antonio. The fort of San Cristobal was reconstructed and enlarged. Other works of a non-military nature were also in the making at this time; the streets were paved and repairs were made on the cathedral of San Juan.

PUERTO RICO AIDS THE 13 COLONIES

In 1776 the 13 American colonies declared their independence from Great Britain. The French and the Spanish were active in their support of the new colonies. Puerto Rico offered its assistance to the new colonies, as cited in the following instance. Two American ships, The "Endawock" and The "Henry", sailed into the port of Mayaguez seeking refuge as a large and well-armed British ship "The Glasgow" was close on their heels. The Puerto Rican citizens took the American seamen into their homes and raised the Spanish flag over the two empty American ships. The English commander was incensed at the action of the Puerto Ricans and protested to the authorities, but governor Dufresne defended the stand of his people and the "Glasgow" left the port without further hostilities.

Life on the island became increasingly difficult. The supply of food was diminishing and the prices of articles were too dear for popular consumption. The settlers were forced to trade with the Dutch, English and French smugglers. The situation worsened to such a degree that the governors of the islands resorted to smuggling.

Spain granted the first measures to combat the poverty of the island in the year 1755. The Barcelona Co. was offered tax exemption in its trade between Spain, Puerto Rico and Santo Domingo. A mail service was established between Spain and Cuba with a station in San Juan. The complete isolation of the island was gradually coming to an end, the pirates and filibusters were eliminated at the end of the century and the money from Mexico was now readily arriving in San Juan thus adding to the economic betterment of the island.

LIFE DURING THE 18th CENTURY

During the first two centuries of the history of the island the development of urban centers was very slow. The population also grew very slowly and was composed mostly of adventurers without families. Their sole desire was to become rich overnight.

It was not until the 18th Century that a large group of immigrants came to Puerto Rico from the Canary Islands. These people were responsible for populating the island. They settled around hermitages which the Church had established throughout the island. By 1729 there were hermitages in Cangrejos (now Santurce), Manatí, Rincón, Mayaguez, Cabo Rojo, Yauco, Caguas and Las Piedras. In 1759 Governor Esteban Bravo de Rivero reported the existence of nine towns and nine hamlets besides the capital and the village of San Germán. And by 1765 there were twenty towns besides San Juan and San German. By 1775 the number of towns had jumped to 29 and by the end of the century the number had reached 34. All of these towns were situated on the Northern and Western coasts.

FOUNDING OF SANTURCE

Santurce was unique in the manner of its founding. Today Santurce has the most aristocratic residential district in Puerto Rico, yet, it began its history as a haven for freed Negro slaves.

In 1664 three Negro women and a Negro man came to Puerto Rico after escaping from the neighboring island of Santa Cruz. The governor of Puerto Rico, Juan Pérez de Guzmán, was decidedly against selling the four escaped slaves for benefit of the royal treasury. The governor claimed that it was not right that the crown should reduce to slavery people who come to Spanish lands seeking freedom. Subsequently, in the years 1680 and 1693 the king of Spain decreed "...that henceforward and for all times free will all Negroes of both sexes who escape from Dutch or English colonies...to my realm to embrace the Holy Catholic Faith...and no one is to bother or torture the Negroes who escape from their owner with this purpose in mind, because upon reaching my realm they shall be

free men and women, and it shall not be permitted that they be re-sold into slavery".

By 1714 there were 80 Negro refugees in Puerto Rico. The governor Don Juan de Rivera, ordered that the freed Negroes be given the land located near the old city of San Juan which is now known as Puerta De Tierra. It was soon discovered that this land was not very fertile and the black colonists, as they were called were given the land on the other side of the bridge of San Antonio extending all the way to the Channel of Martin Pena. This area, where Santurce is now located, was named San Mateo de Cangrejos.

It became less difficult to repel enemy attacks on that area of the coast. A military auxiliary unit was formed among the black colonists known as Los Morenos de Cangrejos (The dark-skinned men of Cangrejos) who won great fame in the war against the English in the Island of Vieques and who, in 1797, distinguished themselves in the defense of the city against the English hosts of Avercromby and Harvey.

By 1760 Cangrejos had grown in size and population to be officially designated with the title of township.

THE HISTORICAL OPUS OF FRAY INIGO ABBAD

In 1772 a Benedictine monk by the name of Inigo Abbad y Lasiererra came to the island. Besides being a priest, Inigo Abbad was also a writer and historian of great talent. While in Puerto Rico he wrote a very important book entitled "Geographical, Civil and Natural History of the Island of San Juan Bautista of Puerto Rico," which was published in Madrid in 1789. The book is of great importance because it paints a vivid picture of the Puerto Rican of that time. Following is an extract from the book:

The Europeans from various nations who have settled in this island, the racial mixing of these with Negroes and Indians, and the effects of the climate on the whole population have produced various castes among the inhabitants which can be distinguished by color, physiognomy and character. Seen superficially and without reflecting upon them, the inhabitants show very little difference in their character. One can only see a character as mixed as their racial color.....

Anyone born in the island, no matter in what cast or racial mixture he belongs is called a Criollo... Their constitution is delicate with loose limbs typical of a warm climate; they are slow and taciturn and are always in deep contemplation; nevertheless, they have a lively imagination allowing them to vividly recount whatsoever they observe; they love liberty, they are impartial and are very hospitable to strangers; but they are vain and fickle in their taste.....

They are inclined to brilliant and honorable actions; they are fearless in war and doubtless are excellent soldiers for short expeditions.....

Europeans bore them; the extreme ardor and vivacity of the Europeans make them uncomfortable for they end by imitating the Europeans; but they invite the Europeans to their houses with openness of feeling, feeding and lodging them by taste; and they take great pride in having descended from the Europeans."

As can be seen this picture of the 18th century Puerto Rican is similar to the picture of the modern Puerto Rican. The 18th century was the century in which Puerto Rican character was finally shaped. To study this period of our history is to understand how Puerto Ricans came to be.

Inigo Abbad goes into great detail about the daily life of the Puerto Rican of that time. He tells of the Puerto Rican's costumes, food, houses, recreations and devotion.

THE POPULATION

The rate of growth of the population during the 18th century was rather high. In 1765 there were 44,883 inhabitants in the island. In the year 1776, the time depicted in the book of Inigo Abbad, the population had grown to 70,260 a growth of fifty per cent since the year 1765. In 1776 the annual census of the population began to be taken and they show a constant and rapid growth, the total reaching 155,426 souls in 1800. Forty per cent of this total were white and ten per cent were slaves, the others were mixed blood.

From this mixture of the three races and cultures was born the Criollo, a type distinct from the European, the African, and the Indian, and yet a type which united these three races and cultures into one harmonious whole.

19th CENTURY

The 19th century was the beginning of the end of Spain as a great power in the world. Napoleon Bonaparte had invaded the peninsula towards the end of the previous century. He then dethroned Ferdinand VII and set up his brother Joseph as King of Spain. This produced a call to arms in 1808 among the Spanish people everywhere in the world. Money was requested from the colonies to help pay for the war against the French invaders. Puerto Rico answered by sending 112,516 pesos from the early allowance it had received from Mexico. It was this allowance that had kept the Puerto Rican economy alive since 1586.

Many colonies did not escape the French aggression. Santo Domingo had fallen under French rule in 1795 and many Dominicans left their country to seek help in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Ricans have succeeded in repelling the French aggression from their shores. The governor, Toribio Montes, gave the Dominicans guns and ammunition, food and soldiers. These Puerto Ricans completely destroyed the French hold of Santo Domingo.

Many Puerto Ricans became famous in the war against the French. One such Puerto Rican was Ramón Power, a naval officer.

With the help of its colonies, Spain managed to destroy the French aggression by 1814. But the dangers to the Spanish Empire were not over. There were other dangers growing from within.

REVOLUTION IN THE COLONIES

The allowance that the Mexican Treasury gave Puerto Rico had built in large measure the fortifications, the public roads, the buildings and had paid the Army its wages.

1809 was the last time that Mexico sent this money to the island. In 1810 the clergyman Hidalgo began a revolutionary movement in Mexico that stopped the allowance. This did grave damage to the Puerto Rican economy

which so dearly needed the allowance.

That same year Venezuela deposed its Spanish Captain General and set up a "Regional Junta".

Fearing that the Puerto Ricans might follow in the footsteps of Mexico and Venezuela, the Spanish government gave the governor in Puerto Rico absolute power.

ALL-EMBRACING POWER

The extraordinary power that the Puerto Rican governor acquired came to be known by the name of "Facultades Omnímodas." (All-embracing Powers.) With this authority the governor could send anyone to prison without a trial and for as long as he wished. He did not have to give any reasons for doing so.

This tyranny produced much suffering among the Puerto Rican people, for at the slightest rumor of revolution the governor would send thousands to prison. Many Puerto Ricans tried to put a stop to the tyranny of the governor. Among them was the famous naval hero, Ramon Power. He was elected the first Puerto Rican member to the Spanish Parliament at Cádiz in 1810. And in 1812 he became vice-president of that celebrated parliament.

During Power's tenure the parliament abolished the Inquisition, established freedom of the press and created a very liberal Constitution which gave equal political and civil rights to all Spanish subjects in every land under Spanish rule. But, the high point of Power's career was his fight to suspend the "All-embracing Powers" of the Puerto Rican governor.

In the speech that persuaded the Parliament to suspend the tyrannical powers of the governor, Power movingly said "This barbarous order has produced in Puerto Rico the dreadful effect which you may well imagine; each citizen awaits at any moment the breaking in of his home; they fear being torn away from their land; they fear death far away from their homes. They all see their rights to their own properties compromised -- the properties which they

have acquired at a cost of hard work. How dreadful and how undeserved is the fate of my people!"

The "All embracing Powers" were suspended, but in 1825 King Ferdinand VII again put them into effect. They were not finally abolished until 1873 when the Republican Parliament took action against them.

Ramon Power helped Puerto Rico not only politically but economically as well. He did away with many of the privileges of the ruling class. And with his Economic Society of the Friends of the Country he established a sound method of economic administration of the island.

Power died of yellow fever in Cádiz at the early age of 38.

FIRST RUMBLINGS OF REVOLUTION IN PUERTO RICO

In 1805 a group of Columbians tried to take the city of Aguadilla by force and were defeated. At that same time a messenger of the Venezuelan revolutionary group was captured in San Germán. In Bayamón the government discovered the plans for a projected revolution among various slaves in time. In Ponce a band of armed men attacked the house of the alderman. They were captured and shot.

The biggest conspiracy discovered by the government was that of Louis Ducoudray Holstein, a Swiss who had taken part in the revolution in Venezuela. With the help of Pedro Duboy, a french mulatto from Guadalupe living in Naguabo, Ducoudray Holstein hoped to attack the island at Anasco with all the freed slaves he could get and together they would march through the island, proclaiming it to be the Republic Of Boricua. Duboy and two negro slaves were executed. Ducoudaray Holstein escaped death only because he never landed on the island.

RECEIVED
20-24 FEB 1954
NEWARK, N. J.

RECEIVED
20-24
FEB 1954

EMIGRANTS FROM SOUTH AMERICA

As early as 1810, as the result of the revolution in Venezuela many emigrants loyal to the Spanish King had left that country and had settled in Puerto Rico. The island was chosen by these emigrants because it was famous for its loyalty to the Spanish Throne.

The battle of Carabobo in 1821, in which Simon Bolivar completely destroyed the Spanish Army of General Miguel de la Torre, gave Venezuela its independence. Now all Venezuelans loyal to the King had to leave. Nine ships with thousands of immigrants suddenly arrived in Puerto Rico. The number of immigrants was too great for the economy of the island to support, particularly because the allowance from Mexico was no longer arriving. There was no commerce and the spirit of the people was at low ebb.

The government gave the immigrants land to work. They settled throughout the island and in time became a strong part of the fabric of the population. These people, loyal to the King of Spain, made the island even more loyal to the Spanish throne than it was before. They helped break the spirit for freedom among the people from within. A final blow against the hope for independence came in 1822 when Miguel de La Torre, the general who had been defeated by Simón Bolívar at the battle of Carabobo, became governor of the island of Puerto Rico.

2-14
APR 1964

CORRIDAS IN OLD SAN JUAN

Of all the forms of recreation enjoyed by the Puerto Ricans of the 18th century, horse racing was the most beloved. These races (or Corridas, as they were called) date from the 16th century when they were initiated to commemorate the Conquest of the island. Eventually they were discontinued because of differences between the Church and the State.

The races were very different from those of today. Idigo Abbad describes them in his book in great detail.

Everybody takes part in the races; even the youngest baby-girls participate, their fathers holding them on the saddle-tree. In each town certain holidays have been designated for racing. In the Capital the days of Saint John, Saint Peter and Saint Matthew have thus been designated. Early in the morning of the eve of Saint John the city is filled with a great multitude coming from every town of the island. These people come to show off their gallant steeds. At twelve o'clock men and women of all ages ride out into the streets on horses beautifully adorned. There are many who have their mantillas, saddles and the flaps of their holsters trimmed with gold and have had their bridles, stirrups and spurs made of silver... Others adorn their horses with braids of ribbons of many colors....

They ride in large groups composed of family and friends. They ride all night up and down every street without ever stopping until their horses give up in exhaustion. Then they mount other horses and continue their festivities, giving the city an appearance of frenetic confusion.

Although there is fast movement of horses in every street, there is never any fatal accident...The women ride with as much, if not more, freedom as the men. They make such use of their spurs and their whips to make the horses run faster and faster. Many horses fall down dead and all are maimed or crippled, rendering them useless for many years. It is true though, that the horses are pampered all year long before the race.

Not all the day of the race is filled with tumultuous confusion. At nine o'clock on the day of Saint John the flag of the city is carried into the street followed by the governor and other dignitaries and two cavalry troops. After these the people show off their finery followed by maids, grooms, valets---all in great pomp and circumstances. Then the banner of the Cathedral is brought out in like manner. And all proceed to the church where they give the banner to the bishop. After high mass they all return to the festivities and to the great joy that reigns that day.

MILITARISM DESPOTISM

The head of the military had the rank of Captain General. He was also head of the civil and economic administration with the title of the Superior Governor of the island. This centralized all the power of the government and vested it on the Governor. As General of the Army the governor had the means to enforce all his wishes. The Puerto Rican people had no power whatever to make laws, nor the power to disobey the law, for the Army was a very strong weapon.

The military division of the island consisted of the Capital and seven other military departments. These were Arecibo, Bayamón, Aguadilla, Mayaguez, Ponce, Humacao and Guayama. The garrison of the island was composed of four infantry battalions, one cavalry battalion and one artillery. Added to these were seven battalions of well disciplined militias and two regiments. All together there were more than 12,000 Spanish soldiers in Puerto Rico in the middle of the 19th century. This governmental and military organization was established by the Crown under the authority of the "Laws of the Indies". These were the laws that had been enacted to rule the Spanish Antilles. As can be seen the government that was thus created could only have been labelled with one name, Military Despotism.

THE PROCLAMATIONS

Under the despotic system of government the governors were prone to publish edicts to regulate the life of the people. These edicts or proclamations were supposedly aimed at protecting the lives and properties of the people. They did more than this. In 1824, for example, the governor Miguel de la Torre, published an edict in which he prohibited blasphemy, disrespect to the Clergy, family parties without an official permit, meetings at night after the hour of praying, walking in the street after ten o'clock, machetes within the city's walls, kite-flying in the city, working on holidays, the

selling of cattle without a license, etc. These edicts made it extremely difficult for the people to carry on a normal life Governor de la Torre went much further in his control of the people. Fearing that revolutionary winds might blow over Puerto Rico, the governor encouraged general popular mass entertainment. He reasoned that a people which is having fun will not conspire to revolt. His tactics were so efficient that during his governorship of fifteen years peace and tranquility if not happiness, reigned in the island.

THE CONSPIRACY of 1838

Submission to the government was not absolute. There were men who did not like the despotic rule and they tried to do something about it. In 1838 while Miguel López de Baños was governor, a conspiracy was discovered and quickly destroyed. Many soldiers were implicated.

The conspirators hoped to put into effect the liberal constitution of Cadiz of 1812 in Puerto Rico. As such, the conspiracy was nothing more than a blow of liberalism against the despotic government. The conspirators were not trying to separate the island from the Spanish empire.

The secessionists appeared later when the people could not longer tolerate the very bad government of such corrupt governors as Marchesi, Messina, Sanz and Palacios.

THE GROWTH of INTELLECTUALS

Opposition to the government before the middle of the 19th century was non-existent, for there was no voice that spoke for the people. The island lacked educated men in a number large enough to force the government to listen to the people's grievances.

After the middle of the century a group of young intellectuals flowered who louder and louder began to voice liberal ideas. Some of these young intellectuals had attended classes at the schools established by the Economic Society of the Friends of the Country -- that same society founded by

Zamorá Power. They also attended the Seminary founded in 1824 by Bishop Pedro Cervera de Cea. Many of them managed to study in various universities in countries like Germany, France, England and Spain. Among the young intellectuals were José Julián Acosta, Ramón Baldorioty de Castro, Segundo Ruiz Fiolvis, Julian E. Blanco, Ramón Rentería Betances. These young men eventually became leaders of the reformist liberal movement, which in time became the first political party of Puerto Rico.

These young intellectuals created a climate which slowly but surely began to push the Puerto Rican masses out of its lethargy. An undercurrent began to flow throughout the island. By 1867 the state of silence and secrecy that reigned over the island was broken. Reform, long a forbidden word, was echoed from one end of the island to the other. The Revolution was on its way.

The Exile of the Patriots

From the year 1861 to 1865 there was war in the sister island of Santo Domingo. Spain was fighting furiously to retain the island within its empire. The governor of Puerto Rico tightened his reins on the people. There were rumors of revolution.

In 1867 a military coup exploded but was immediately estinguished. As a result of the coup a Spanish colonel and a soldier were executed.

Governor Marchesi suspected that various civilians had played a part in the military uprising. Without any ado and using his despotic powers, the governor exiled Gefonimo Goico, Ramón Emeterio Betances, Calixto Romero Togores, Segundo Ruiz Belvis, Julián E. Blanco, José de Celis Auilera, Vicente María Quiñones, Vicente Rufino de Goanegu and Carlos E. Lacroix. He ordered these men to present themselves before the government in Madrid and forbade them to return to Puerto Rico. He rid the people of its leaders in one act. The Puerto Rican people were shocked.

Betances and Ruiz Belvis Escape

Betances and Ruiz Belvis did not obey the order of the governor. They boarded a merchant ship at the port of Guánica and sailed for Saint Thomas. From there they went to New York.

In New York they published an open letter in the New York Herald in which they declared that they had not taken part in the military coup. The letter also stated that they had disobeyed the order of the governor because they had no trust in the good faith of the government. They left New York. Ruiz Belvis went to Chile where he died at the age of thirty-eight. Betances travelled to many countries before he finally settled in Paris. There he dedicated himself to encourage, through his writings, the revolutions of Cuba and Puerto Rico. The Cuban Revolutionary Junta in New York named him their representative to the French government.

In 1867 Betances presented his program of reforms for the island of Puerto Rico. The program had the following ten points: Abolition of slavery, the right to vote on all taxes; religious freedom; freedom of speech; freedom of the press; a free commerce; right of assembly; the right to bear arms; inviolability of each citizen; and the right to elect the rulers.

Betances died in 1893 in Paris, but not before he made it extremely uncomfortable for the governor of Puerto Rico. Every day there were new rumors throughout the island that Betances had returned to begin the revolution.

THE END of the SPANISH EMPIRE

For the first time in the history of the island, in the year 1898 a foreign power managed to completely defeat the Spanish hold on Puerto Rico. This was the very same year that Betances, the symbol of Puerto Rican Independence, died in Paris.

The North-Americans, in nine transport ships, reached the port of Guanica in the early hours of the 25th day of July. The first ship to enter the port was the Gloucester, a Yacht belonging to the industrialist J.P. Morgan. The Gloucester opened fire against the few soldiers defending the port destroying all opposition. Subsequently, 3,415 soldiers landed, hoisting the flag of the United States.

On the 27th of the same month three ships, The Dixie, The Annapolis and The Wasp, appeared at the city of Ponce. They asked for the surrender of the city. Ponce had no defense. The city did not even have a cannon. The next day the few soldiers stationed there gave up the city to the North Americans.

On the 31st of July General Brooks, the commander for the North American troops and the first North-American who was to become governor of Puerto Rico, disembarked in Arroyo. With General Brooks men the invading army amounted to 15,199 soldiers.

The North-American forces slowly made their way towards the capital, defeating the Spanish in every brief encounter. The armies of the United States were divided into four columns. General Schwan headed the column approaching from the west, General Henry approached via Utuado, General Wilson used the Carretera Central, and General Brooks was moving from Arroyo towards Cayey.

The armies never fought a major battle, for on August 13th. Spanish army under General Macias ceased all hostilities after receiving news that Spain, through the French Government had approached the United States to established peace terms.

The peace terms were signed on December 10, 1898 in the city of Paris. Article II of the treaty states that Spain yields the Island of Puerto Rico to the United States. And thus, Puerto Rico, as the result of the Spanish American War, ceased being a Spanish colony and became a colony of the United States of America.

The peace terms were signed on December 10, 1898 in the city of Madrid. Article II of the treaty states that Spain yields the Island of Puerto Rico to the United States. And thus, Puerto Rico, as the result of the Spanish American War, ceased being a Spanish colony and became a colony of the United States of America.

Property of Asphire, Inc. of New Jersey
20-24 BRANFORD PLACE
NEWARK, N. J. 07102